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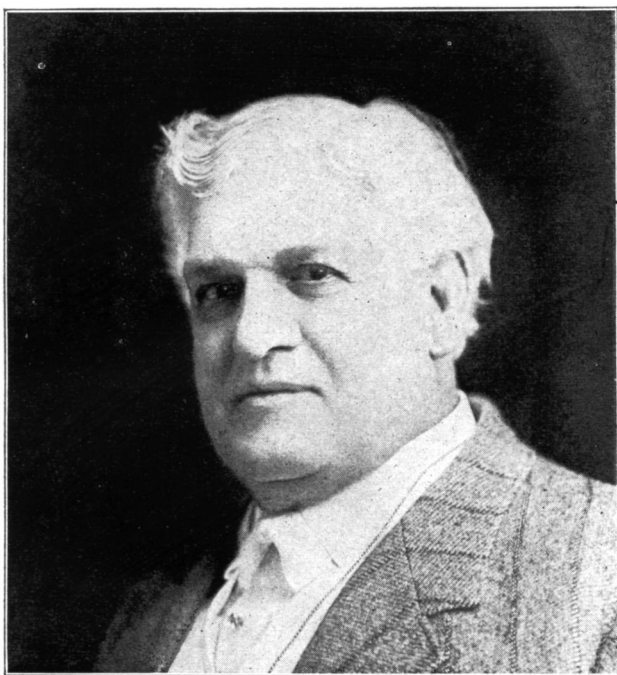
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EDMUND BEALL.

EDMUND BEALL, 1848-1920.

BY KIZZIE HUSKINSON SHIFFLETT.

Edmund Beall was born in Alton (Madison County), Illinois, September 27, 1848. He was the son of James W. and Mary J. Hodges Beall (of Illinois and Tennessee families).

His grandfather established the first furniture factory in Alton on the present site of the Standard Mill. With his brother Charley, Edmund Beall grew up in the Methodist and Baptist faiths (the former church then stood on the corner of Fourth and Belle Streets). Alton boasted, at this time, of a public school to which the eligible could go for a small fee. Taxes were then an unknown problem; many pupils preferred a fireside education preparatory to entering on their life's labor, for many boys felt the burden of a family on their young shoulders for support. Edmund Beall was one of these, for at the age of seven, his father dying, he took up the uncertain warp of family life with a brave heart and right good will. When twelve years had rolled by, the young worker entered the Alton Daily Telegraph as an apprentice. He soon became quite an adept in the art of printing. Before his fourteenth birthday, "War" was bugled from North to South, and the young patriot felt his heart filled with moral courage. He determined to become a soldier in the "Union Army," and accordingly enlisted in Company "D" of the 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, thus being known as the youngest soldier in his State. Rock Island was his camp of service, and it was from here that he later received his honorable discharge September 24, 1865.

When the martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, was brought to Springfield for burial, Edmund Beall's hands helped decorate Lincoln's home with memorial emblems.

When Mr. Beall returned to his home town, he joined his

stepfather (John Mellen) in his blacksmith shop; but, the printer's trade soon beckoned him back and it was not long 'ere he became manager of the job department and soon owner.

Eighteen hundred seventy-two marks the manufacturing of "miners' tools" by Edmund and Charley Beall; their capital was as meager as their energy was great. Thus they began laboriously to wield and weld out a vast fortune. One small shop formed the nucleus of three gigantic factories.

The sage advice of William Huskinson, pioneer railroad builder, was heeded by the brothers, who designed a much-needed miner's special pick and shovel, which proved to be of such specific value, as to cause the demands to far exceed the output. Night and day the Beall factories toiled and the owners toiled also.

Aside from his remarkable business ability, Mr. Beall displayed great interest in civic improvement. Serving his city as alderman fourteen years, Mr. Beall showed such administrative ability, that the Altonians demanded he become "Mayor of Alton." Mr. Beall succeeded himself as mayor of Alton three times, being known far and near as the "Stork" mayor. Like Roosevelt and Julia Ward-Howe, he firmly believed in large American families, saying then would "all products be loyal Americans."

Weal or woe was listened to, with kindly heart and cheerful action by this master-builder. While in office, Mr. Beall "cleaned" up Alton; he tried to make the city beautiful by having flower-beds placed in the arid byways. Rock Spring Park was given Alton by William Elliot Smith through Mr. Beall's suggestion; many municipal recreations sprang up there which brought the citizens together. A fine Country Club was planned and a splendid golf course soon arranged. Mr. Beall obtained a twenty-five-year water franchise for his city; had innumerable fire plugs put in, thus providing safety for the city; he finally succeeded in bringing the State Insane Asylum to "Upper Alton" (during Governor Deneen's

regime). He merged Upper Alton and North Alton into the city proper.

In doing all this, Mr. Beall was prophetic enough to behold in Alton a continuity of factories on through to Granite City.

Mr. Beall was not a man to stand still. He was elected "State Senator of Illinois," November 8, 1910, from the Forty-seventh Senatorial District. Here his zeal was to serve his State faithfully as to the purpose of moral good. Together with Lieutenant Governor Barrett O'Hara, he opened a sweeping vice-crusade of the State. Being made vice-chairman of this Crusade, and open to his own convictions, he soon obtained splendid results for the Crusade to work upon. A book of limited edition was published disclosing the "White Slave Traffic of Illinois," with sincere motive in view, so that its purpose soon achieved the desired effect. The eyes of the State were opened to the social evil existing therein.

While in the Senate, Mr. Beall introduced a bill to erect a monument to commemorate the centennial of the first territorial assembly of Illinois, at Edwardsville, and to commemorate the first territorial governor, "Ninian Edwards" (a distant relative).

In 1911, Mr. Beall toured Europe. Ever being a lover of art and flowers, Mr. Beall brought back many handsome trophies which now adorn his beautiful home on Twelfth Street, Alton, Ill.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands presented the famous "Stork Mayor" of Alton a beautiful diamond.

At the time of the great "World War," the Beall Brothers decided to retire from active life and accordingly sold their business. The two most efficient sons of Senator Beall still manage the huge Beall factories. Their names are Edmund Beall, Manager, and Roy Beall, Assistant Manager. Both men are trained for the management of large works.

Senator Beall married Mary E. Harris (daughter of Benjamin B. Harris of Marblehead, Mass., and a pioneer railroad man of Illinois). Eight children were born of this union.

Those living are:

Hattie (Mrs. J. H. Gill); children: Abbie, Mildred, Edmund.

Abbie (lately deceased), wife of L. Caywood; children: Mary and Harley.

Edward Wesley Beall.

Edmund Harris Beall, married Miss Nellie Lucia Lane (daughter of Hon. Gilbert Lane and Annie Huskinson Lane).

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Harris Beall's children are Edmund Lane Beall and Helen M. Beall.

Roy Beall, married Miss Harriet Burnap.

Mr. Beall was of striking personality, his authority was unquestioned; he was ever seeking to straighten out the biased sides of life for his workmen. His advice was always to the point that focused thought and improved conditions. His life's maxim was "Continue to do the best work you can and results will ever follow, for time always speaks true."

Mr. Beall died suddenly in Los Angeles, California, whither he and his excellent wife were sojourning for his health, January 31, 1920.

He is buried in Alton, Illinois.